

Dear Co-Chair Winfield, Co-Chair Stafstrom, Vice Chair Flexer, Vice Chair Blumenthal, Ranking Member Kissel, Ranking Member Fishbein, and all members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to say that **I OPOSE BILL'S SB16 and HB 5416**

You don't know me but let me start by saying I am a female. A 36-year-old female who feels safe in today's world because I have the ability to protect myself. Something that is trying to be taken away because one may not understand or agree with it. I personally find the attempts of these bills to be offensive.

Did you know that 1 in 3 women become victims of assault each year, physical and or sexual? 1 in 4 women are the victims of domestic violence? Or that 94% of murder-suicide victims are women? I, myself, am 1 of 3. I have had to fear walking to my car late at night. I have had to fear being alone. I have feared being tracked down and attacked again as retaliation for the first assault. For 21 years, I have been in fear. That is until recently when I found the best way I could, to protect myself and family. I mean let's face it, sex trafficking and abductions are at an all-time high. Car jackings and other violent attacks are also at an all-time high. Did you know woman are more likely to become prey than a male?

Bill SB16 is going to limit my ability and rights of protecting myself and my family. There is already a limitation of places in Connecticut where one is allowed to practice this right, and this bill is infringing on that even further. If this bill is passed, you are saying that my safety does not matter, that I do not matter. You are leaving me open and vulnerable of becoming even more of a statistic, to become a victim yet again! All this bill will do, is benefit the criminals, you will be single handedly making them stronger. Stripping the rights of law-abiding citizens will not make criminals any less of a criminal.

"Gun free zones", is that even a thing? A criminal does not care what a sign says. This has been proven with the amount of school shootings and other mass shootings throughout the entire US for decades, some having the strictest laws there are. Making every place in CT, "gun free" is just making the law-abiding citizens become prey, myself included as well as your loved ones. Limiting the number of purchases for guns, ammunition and other items will also NOT make a criminal any less of what they are. Its an infringement of the peoples right and needs to be stopped.

If you are afraid of guns, that is fine, I am too, but I am also afraid of driving because of the dangers that can be associated with vehicles and the number of lives they too take each year. Its not the machine that takes a life, but rather the person that operates said machine. I welcome you to come visit me, to hear my story and allow me to share my knowledge with you. I welcome you to come to a range with me. I have taken extra classes and simulation courses to improve my ability of keeping not only myself safe, but those around me. Why, for I am a good guy, I am a law-abiding citizen.

I SUPPORT S.B. 388, H.B. 5412, and H.B. 5415 and I OPPOSE S.B. 16 and H.B. 5416.

Sincerely,

Shannon O'Shea
Putnam CT